United Nations

Centre against Apartheid

Notes and Documents

15/90 September 1990

NORDIC DECLARATION ON SOUTH AFRICA

[Note: This issue contains the text of the Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the meeting of Nordic Foreign Ministers which took place at Molde, Norway, on 11 and 12 September 1990.]

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The Nordic countries have consistently and strongly repudiated the apartheid system in South Africa. They are determined to continue their active efforts to contribute to the complete abolition of apartheid and to the introduction of a democratic non-racial society in South Africa.

The Nordic countries note with satisfaction that significant and positive developments have begun in South Africa, holding out hope that profound changes are now within reach. However, they point out that fundamental elements of the basic pillars of the apartheid system are still in force.

In consideration of this, the Nordic countries reaffirm that their policy towards South Africa continues to be based on the central elements of the 1988 Nordic Programme of Action. The Nordic countries will thus maintain the pressure on the South African Government, including economic sanctions, until there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes in South Africa.

In the view of the Nordic countries, lasting changes in South Africa should be achieved by negotiations and by peaceful means. They join the rest of the international community in urging the South African Government and representatives of the majority population to carry out real negotiations for the total abolition of the apartheid system in an atmosphere free from violence or threats of violence. All parties in South Africa should follow the example set by the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the South African Government and commit themselves to finding peaceful solutions without resorting to violence.

The Nordic countries will contribute to the promotion of the dialogue and the process of democratization in South Africa. In the light of the progress made during the talks between ANC and the South African Government, the Nordic Governments feel that there are grounds for hoping that such changes may be decided in the not too distant future.

The Nordic countries have already made some adjustments in their visa provisions with a view to increasing opportunities for contacts that could contribute to furthering the dialogue and the democratization porcess. They will continuously reassess the Nordic measures against South Africa and consider changes in the light of developments.